

HOUSE RESOLUTION 32
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Master Sergeant James B. Long, 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard, for being named Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year 2002 for Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those brave citizen warriors who through their extraordinary efforts have won significant awards for their excellence in the military profession and who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is MSGT James B. Long, of the 134th Air Refueling Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard who was recently named Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year for the State of Tennessee for 2002; he was chosen First Sergeant of the Year for his unit, the 134th Air Refueling Wing, in December and then won the state title over first sergeants from Memphis, Chattanooga, and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Blount County Sheriff's Captain Jimmy Long in civilian life, MSGT Long graduated from Heritage high School in 1982 and joined the United States Air Force; following his technical training, he was assigned to Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, South Carolina, where he served a seven-year tour as a crew chief on C-141s; and

WHEREAS, nineteen days after leaving active duty, Jimmy Long enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard in April of 1990; he served as a crew chief on KC-135s until he was selected as the 134th Air Refueling Wing's Aircraft Generation Squadron First Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, in his role as First Sergeant, Long exercises general supervision over all unit enlisted personnel and is the focal point for all matters concerning enlisted personnel, representing their interests to the unit commander; and

WHEREAS, MSGT Long has earned numerous military awards and decorations including: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four devices, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with three devices, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal; and

WHEREAS, James B. Long was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the State of Tennessee in 1998; he is a February 2002 graduate of the First Sergeant's Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, and is currently enrolled in the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy through correspondence; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Long became a patrol officer with the Blount County Sheriff's office in October of 1990 and advanced through the ranks in the Patrol Division before serving as a detective for a time. Sheriff James Berrong then returned Long to the Patrol Division, the agency's largest, to serve as Captain; and

WHEREAS, James B. Long is actively pursuing an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice at Roane State Community College, where he maintains a 4.0 grade point average; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the 134th Air Refueling Wing, MSGT Long still finds time to apply his remarkable talents to the duties of coach of a Little League team and service in his church as an ordained deacon and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Long epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mitzi, and their children, Jamie, Kadie, and Meghan; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud MSGT James B. Long for his dedication to professional excellence and to service to the nation and to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend MSGT James B. Long for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and the nation and for being named Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year for the State of Tennessee for 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him all the best in his competition for the national honor to be selected by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.